

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. B. D. 7847

S.1, Special Branch.

REPORT

Date March 23, 1937.

Subject Agitation among workers of Price's Candle Factory (British),

Nos. 3 and 5 Robison Road.

Made by D.S.I. Laurier

Forwarded by T. C. D. S. I.

Price's Candle Factory, No.5 Robison Road, employs 133 hands.

At 10 a.m. March 22, seven workers of the Oil Department approached the management and demanded a further increase of 15 cents per week over and above the recent increase from \$4.50 to \$4.85 per week granted by the Company. The manager replied that he would refer their demand to the General Manager. Consequent upon this demand, 13 workers employed in the godown, who formerly received the same rate of pay as the oil workers, interviewed the manager and demanded an increase proportionate to the demands made by the oil workers. The manager assured them that their demand would receive due consideration. Unrest among the workers continued, and at 2.30 p.m. March 22, the candle packers, numbering 21, struck work as a result of the management's refusal to entertain their demand for an increase of 2.5 cents per 100 packages. As a result of this latest development the management decided to cease operations, and close the Factory.

Between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. the same day, Mah Tsing (馬清), representative of the workers, residing at 1006 Tonquin Road, and Li Kyih Ling (李吉林), a member of the Standing Committee of the 3rd District Cotton Spinning Workers' Union, residing at 1043 Tung Yih Faung, Robison Road, together with three other workers named Wong Tsong Chi (王宗志), Yang Ting Fah (楊鼎發) and Lieu Ah Doe (劉何發), held a meeting at the home of the first named. The strikers were advised to resume work pending negotiations with the management regarding the following demands:-

1. Increase of pay by 2.5 cents per 100 packages.
2. Retirement gratuity equal to one month's pay for each year of

D.C. (Dir.)



24 MAR 1937

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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of service on completion of 3 years' service.

3. Promotion ^F of other departments of senior juvenile workers
when new apprentices are engaged.

The strikers resumed work on the condition that should the
management fail to give a satisfactory reply to their demands
within three days they would again go out on strike.

A. J. J. J.
D. S. I.

D.C. (Special Branch).

Dist.

D.C. G.

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Misc. No. 50/37.

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT.

REPORT ON STRIKE

Reported at Police Station.

March 22nd, 1937.

Time and date reported 3 pm 22.3.37. Time and date I.O. informed _____

By whom reported Mr. J. Margallan, Manager.

Trade or profession of strikers Candle makers.

Number of strikers 20 Male 20 Female _____ Apprentices _____

Employer's name, address and business Asiatic Petroleum Company. Prices
Candle Factory, Nos 3 and 5 Robinson Road.

Union to which strikers belong ---

Cause of strike and demands made by strikers Recently the Company allowed
employees a 25 increase of wages. The strikers, however, are dis-
satisfied and demand that the increase be 10%.

When did discontent amongst strikers first commence About 3 p.m. on 22.3.37.

What action (if any) did employers take to remedy cause of discontent prior to commence-
ment of strike ---

What action (if any) have the employers taken to meet the demands of the strikers
Manager was willing to submit any written demands of strikers to A.P.C.
Headquarters on condition that they resumed work. This was rejected by

Names and addresses of strike leaders strikers who left factory.

Has the strike or its cause any political inspiration No.

Meeting places of strikers ---

Number of persons arrested for offences arising out of strike ---

Particulars of literature (if any) circulated relative to strike ---

Name and address of printer of such circulars ---

Precautions taken by Police Station posted in vicinity of factory.

SEARCHED 1/c.	INDEXED 1/c.	S. O. L.	1 c.
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NOTE. "Further" reports should be submitted on the usual Report form.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

Pootoo Road Station,

Date... March 23, 19 37.

Subject... Labour unrest at Price's Candle Factory, No. 3/5 Robison Road.

Made by... D.S.I. White

Forwarded by... *D. S. Perkins Insp.*

Sir,

At about 3¹⁵ p.m. 22-3-37, a telephone communication was received at Pootoo Road Police Station from Mr. Margerison, Manager, Price's Candle Factory, No. 3/5 Robison Road, to the effect that male members of the Packing Department had struck work. Subsequent enquiries amongst the dis-satisfied employees, numbering 20 male persons, elicited the information that they are dis-satisfied with the recent increase granted to their particular department by the Head Office, as other departments had received a greater monetary increase than their particular department.

The strikers were addressed by the Manager, who informed them that they could either resume work, and later submit a petition containing their demands to the Head Office for consideration, or continue to strike, which would entail their dismissal.

The strikers agreed to submit their demands to the Head Office within the next few days, whereupon they left the factory at the usual time the factory closes for the day.

Enquiries at the Factory in the morning of the 23-3-37, elicited the information that all the strikers had resumed work and that the normal working conditions had been resumed.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

D. S. White

D.S.I.

D.S.I. 27

Officer i/c, S.R.

IL 22/3